

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 25-35 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 25, 26, and 30 have been amended herein. No new claims have been added. As a result claims 1-6 and 25-35 are pending for examination, with claims 1 and 6 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Support for amendments to claims 1 and 6 is provided, for example, at paragraphs [0030] through [0033] of Applicant's published application (US 2005/0185211 A1), hereinafter, "the published application" as originally filed. For example, with respect to claim 1, the step of associating each item of a first plurality of items of a standard user interface data structure is described in paragraph [0030] of the published application, and the step of associating each item of a second plurality of items of a customized user interface data structure is described in paragraph [0031] of the published application. The steps of linking, replacing, displaying, and enabling access are described at paragraphs [0032] and [0033] of the published application.

Support for the amendment to claim 4 is provided, for example, at paragraphs [0036] and [0037] of the published application.

Support for the amendments to claims 25 and 26 is provided, for example, in previously pending claims 6 and 1, respectively, and at paragraphs [0007], [0012]-[0014], and [0038]-[0048] of the published application.

Support for the amendment to claim 30 is provided, for example, at paragraphs [0007], [0014], and [0039] of the published application.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Summary of Telephone Conference with Examiner

On October 22, the undersigned participated in a telephone interview with Examiner Milia to discuss the proposed draft claim amendments submitted on October 16, 2009. The undersigned thanks Examiner Milia for his courtesy and consideration during this interview.

During the telephone interview, the undersigned explained Applicant's claimed invention, as well as the disclosure of US Patent No. 6,831,752 (hereinafter Matsuo), and how Applicant's invention as set forth in the proposed amendments to claim 1 patentably distinguished thereover. While reserving final judgment, and subject to further consideration

and/or search, Examiner Milia agreed that the proposed amendments to claim 1 appeared to patentably distinguish over Matsuo. Accordingly, the undersigned agreed to submit the proposed draft amendments previously submitted on October 22, 2009 in a formal response.

Claim Objections

Claim 30 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claim 30 has been amended to overcome this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 30 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

1. The Rejection of Claims 1-6

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being unpatentable over Matsuo in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0163660 to Iwai (hereinafter Iwai). Each of independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended, and as now presented, clearly and patentably distinguish over Matsuo alone, and in combination with Iwai.

For example, claim 1 is directed to a method of customizing a standard user interface associated with a universal printer driver. The method comprises steps of associating each item of a first plurality of items of a standard user interface data structure with a respective first object of a first plurality of first objects, each first object of the first plurality of first objects having a first object interface through which it communicates with a respective item of the first plurality of items; associating each item of a second plurality of items of a customized user interface with a respective second object of a second plurality of second objects, each second object of the second plurality of second objects having a second object interface through which it communicates with a respective item of the second plurality of items; linking a first identifier of each respective first object of the first plurality of first objects to a second identifier of each respective second object of the second plurality of second objects through a software interface, the software interface facilitating communication between each respective first and second object that are linked together by linking the first object interface of the respective first object to the second object interface of the respective second object; setting a parameter of each respective item of the first plurality of items of the standard user interface data structure to a value that

hides each respective item of the first plurality of items of the standard user interface data structure from view of a user; replacing the standard user interface with the customized user interface; displaying only the customized user interface while hiding the standard user interface from the view of the user; and enabling access to each respective first object of the first plurality of first objects through the customized user interface by accessing the respective second object to which it is linked.

As discussed with Examiner Milia during the telephone interview, by associating each item of the standard user interface data structure with a respective first object, associating each item of the customized user interface data structure with a respective second object, and linking an identifier of each respective first object with an identifier of each respective second object, embodiments of Applicant's invention enable access to each respective first object through the customized user interface by accessing the respective second object to which it is linked. By these steps, embodiments of Applicant's invention isolate implementation details of the standard user interface structure and the customized user interface structure from one another. This, in turn, allows constraint logic and other user interface logic to operate on items of the standard user interface structure without creating dependencies relating to how the items of the customized user interface structure are displayed in the customized user interface, as described in paragraph [0032] of the published application. These aspects of Applicant's invention are not disclosed, taught, or suggested in Matsuo, alone or in combination with Iwai.

In Matsuo, settings reflecting a customized user interface are stored separately for each user. (See Matsuo at col. 3, lines 6-9: "The setting information is stored in the computer for each user, therefore, a plurality of sets of settings can be stored in one device, of which a desired set of the settings can be selected." See also Matsuo at col. 3, lines 19-24; col. 3, lines 34-41; col. 4, lines 1-21 and lines 43-48; col. 5, lines 11-17, and col. 6, lines 52-59.) Those saved settings of the customized user interface are then accessed directly by the user, such that Matsuo fails to disclose, teach, or suggest steps of linking and enabling access in the manner recited in claim 1. Iwai fails to cure this deficiency, as Iwai is directed to a dedicated printer driver for use with large size prints. (See paragraphs [0006] through [0011] and [0086] and [0127], for example.) Accordingly, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Matsuo, alone and in combination with Iwai, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the asserted combination of Matsuo and Iwai be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and patentably distinguish over the asserted combination of Matsuo and Iwai for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the asserted combination of Matsuo and Iwai be withdrawn.

Claim 6 is directed to computer software, residing on a computer-readable storage medium. The computer software comprises a set of instructions that cause a computer to customize a standard user interface associated with a universal printer driver by performing steps similar to those recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 6 is believed to patentably distinguish over the asserted combination of Mastuo and Iwai for at least the same reasons. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the asserted combination of Masuo and Iwai be withdrawn.

2. The Rejection of Claims 25-35

Claims 25-26 and 28-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuo and Iwai as applied to claims 1 and 6, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 7,053,895 to Yamagata et al (hereinafter Yamagata). Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuo and Iwai and Yamagata as applied to claim 26, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 7,046,818 to Ratnaker et al. (hereinafter Ratnaker).

Applicant does not concede that the proposed combination of Matsuo, Iwai, and Yamagata, and the proposed combination of Mastuo, Iwai, Yamagata, and Ratnaker are proper, and reserves the right to further traverse the propriety of those combinations in the future. However, even in combination, the asserted combination of Mastuo, Iwai, and Yamagata, and the asserted combination of Mastuo, Iwai, Yamagata, and Ratnaker fail to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the limitations of each of claims 1 and 6 from which each of claims 25-35 depend. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 25-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the asserted combinations of Mastuo, Iwai, Yamagata, and Ratnaker is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested. This application should now be in condition for allowance; a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, or authorization to charge a deposit account submitted herewith, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: Z2002-702319

Date: October 26, 2009